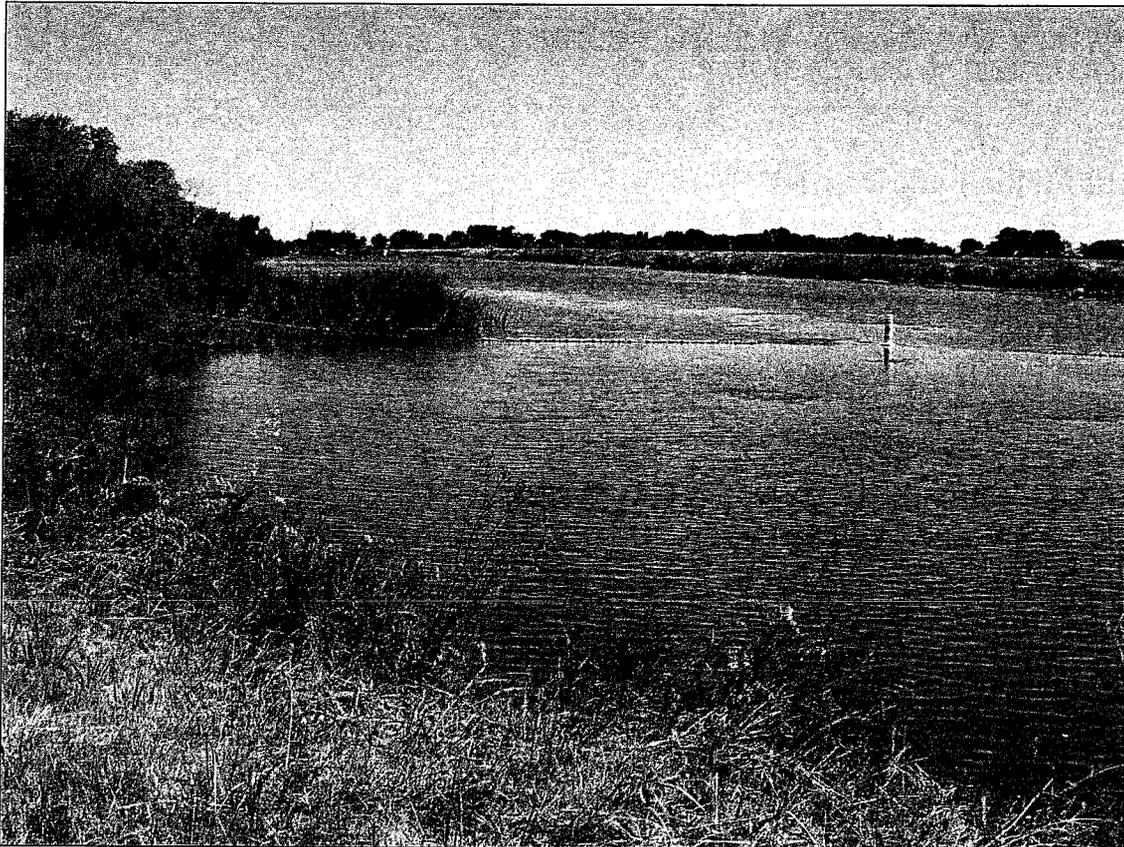

Recreation Assessment

Brannan Island State Recreation Area

June 2008



California State Parks

Planning Division, Recreation Section

P.O. Box 942896

Sacramento, California 94296-0001

<http://www.parks.ca.gov>



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Introduction

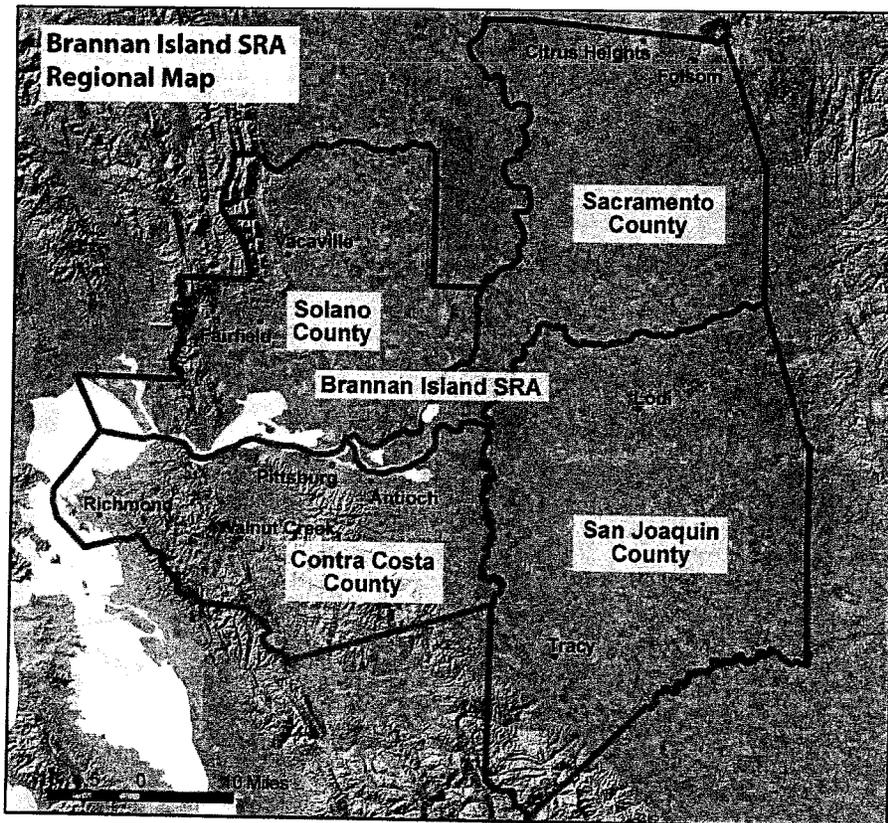
Park description

Brannan Island State Recreation Area (SRA) is located northeast of San Francisco Bay in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Part of the California State Parks' Gold Fields District, this 336-acre SRA offers outstanding water-based recreation opportunities. In addition to natural Delta amenities, major park features include a six-lane motorized boat launch, a 200-person group picnic area, individual day-use sites, a swimming area and 140 campsites.

Park visitors

Most visitors are from nearby areas of the San Francisco Bay Area and the Central Valley. Map 1 shows the counties and larger cities near Brannan Island SRA.

Map 1. Brannan Island SRA Regional Map.



Purpose

From its beginnings, California State Parks has provided high-quality, resource-based recreation opportunities in healthful outdoor recreation settings as an integral part of its mission.

Today, demographic trends require that the Department re-examine recreation opportunities at its parks:

- The nation's population is becoming more sedentary.
- As California's population continues to grow, populations of ethnic groups formerly in the minority are expected to surge past those of traditional park users.
- Children are spending less time in the natural world.
- Attendance at some parks is declining.

Recreation assessments that include consideration of these trends can help ensure that California State Parks serve Californians' needs now and into the future.

Objectives

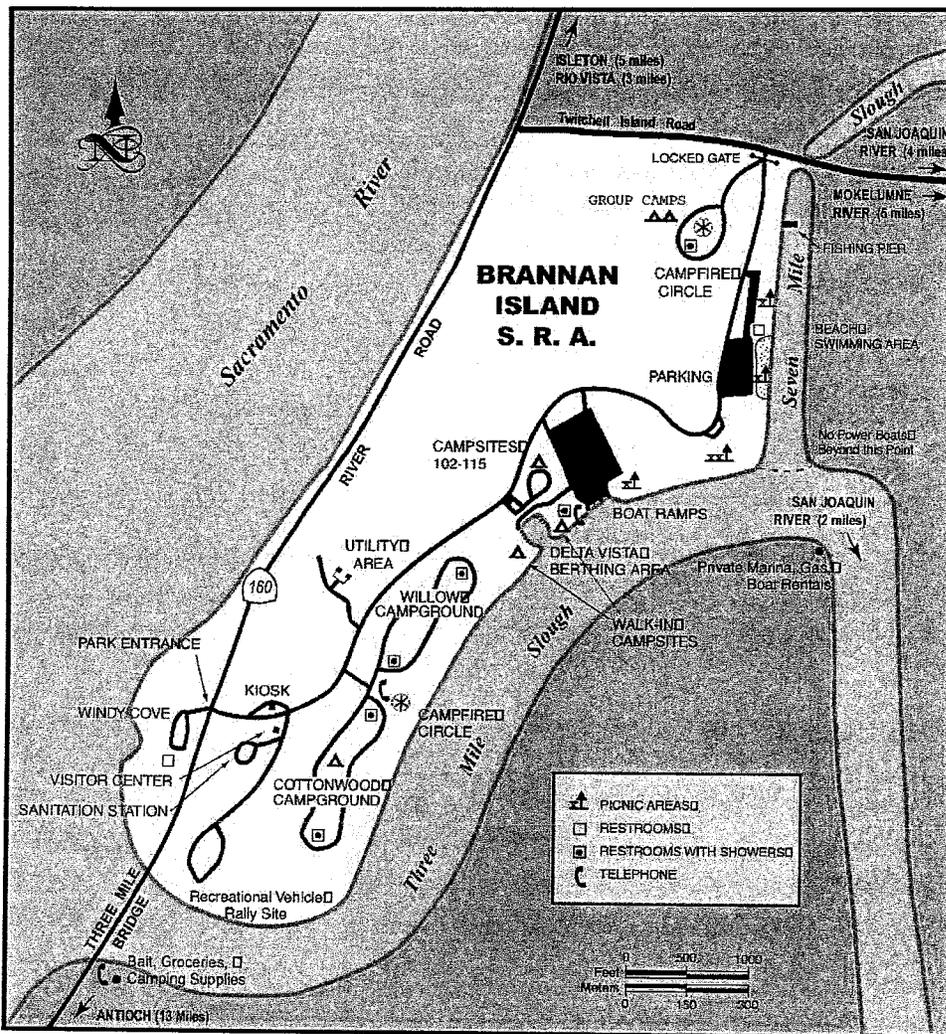
This assessment is intended to provide the Gold Fields District with an updated recreation opportunities plan that incorporates recent demographic data and other relevant information.

The objectives of the assessment are to:

- Evaluate the existing recreation features to determine if they meet current and projected park visitor needs
- Recommend improvements to existing recreation opportunities
- Determine if the recommendations conform with the General Plan
- Provide estimates of planning and development costs
- Identify potential sources of outside funding and partnership opportunities
- Identify potential concession and partnership opportunities

Existing features of Brannan Island SRA are shown in Map 2.

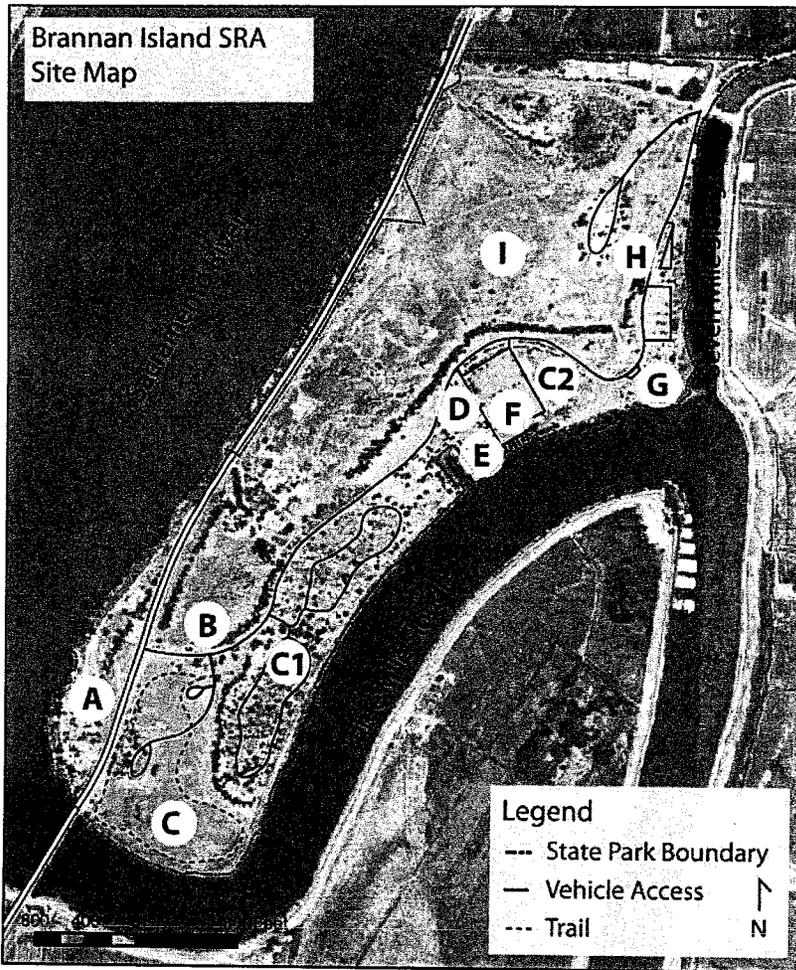
Map 2. Existing Brannan Island SRA features.



Recommendations summary

Recommendations for improved and new recreation opportunities are summarized here and identified on Map 3, page 3. For more information, see Recommendations page 14.

- A. For **Windy Cove Day Use Area**, conduct a study to determine the feasibility of shoreline access for wind surfers and fishermen. Add a viewing platform, resource-based play area and interpretive signs. Enhance the trail and provide beach access from near Three Mile Bridge. Remove access to dirt parking lots on both sides of Highway 160.



Map 3. Brannan Island SRA site map.

- B. At or near the existing site, develop a new **visitor center** building and provide an adjacent campfire center area. Provide a new interpretive hiking trail. Replace existing park entry sign.
- C. Expand **group campground** facilities by adding one or more group camp areas for 30-50 people (C). Implement a pilot project at Cottonwood Campground that converts selected existing sites into one or two small-group (10-12 person) campsites (C1). Install a small group campground for 25-30 people near the Three Mile Slough Day Use area (C2).
- D. Enhance the **RV campground** by significantly reducing the density of the existing RV sites by spreading 50% of the sites out over the adjacent undeveloped area southeast of the RV area and enlarging the footprint of each site.

-
- E. Install up to four additional **cabins** near the single existing cabin.
- F. Improve facilities at the **boat launch area** by adding a fish-cleaning station and a mobile concession for events such as boat shows and fishing tournaments. Consider providing motorized boat tours.
- G. Enhance the **Three Mile Slough Day Use Area** by adding a resource-based play area, creative play area and improving access to the sandspit beach area.
- H. Improve the **Seven Mile Slough Day Use Area**. Add a creative play area and an additional fishing pier and convert part of the parking lot into individual day-use sites.
- I. Encourage kiting and consider developing a disc golf course in the **open field area** at the north end of the SRA.
- J. **Other.**
- Initiate regular, on-going **user surveys** to gather visitor information
 - Use a **vehicle counter** for more accurate attendance data.
 - Update the park brochure to include information to help visitors find their way around the park unit.

Audience

The groups primarily expected to use this assessment are:

- District superintendents and staff
- Planning Division staff
- General Planning section staff
- Acquisition and Development Division (Concept Studies, Preliminary Plans)
- Park Operations- Technical Services Division (PID Development)

Assumptions

Assumptions for this assessment are as follows:

- The assessment is a 5-year plan.
- State funding will continue to be limited.
- Alternative funding opportunities are to be pursued by the district.
- Concession opportunities will require review and input from the Concessions Division.
- Some improvements may require General Plan amendments.

Information sources

Information for this report was obtained from:

- California State Parks staff
- California State Parks and U.S. Census Bureau data
- California Department of Boating and Waterways
- California Department of Fish and Game
- Members of local Chambers of Commerce
- Other stakeholder groups, such as the Delta Natural History Association and windsurfing and water sport businesses.

Opportunities and Challenges

Two primary factors affect future recreational uses at Brannan Island SRA:

1. Demographic trends. The nation's population is growing more sedentary and spending less time in the natural world. The region's population is projected to continue to grow dramatically and ethnic diversity is expected to increase.
2. Funding opportunities. State funding for Parks is expected to continue to be limited.

These factors and how they affect Brannan Island SRA are outlined here.

Demographic trends

Trends toward more sedentary lifestyle and less involvement with natural world

It is widely accepted that Americans are becoming more sedentary. Research shows that obesity, which some experts believe is a nationwide epidemic, is directly related to a lack of physical activity. Today's children are more occupied with high-tech devices, and are less inclined, for various reasons, to play outdoors. These trends impact the overall health of Americans as well as recreation at California State Parks.

Several recent California State Parks publications outline the benefits of outdoor recreation. Richard Louv, noted futurist and journalist, stresses the importance of providing opportunities for children to experience creative play in nature.

Regional population growth and ethnic composition trends

Most visitors to Brannan Island SRA are from nearby cities, communities and counties, and come to the park mostly for water-based recreation and social gatherings.

Projected population growth and ethnic composition of the four surrounding counties reflect that of Contra Costa County, shown in Chart 1 on page 8.

- Population of the four counties is projected to double by 2030. See the Appendix, pages 35-36.
- A majority of the population increase will come from the Hispanic and Asian ethnic groups.

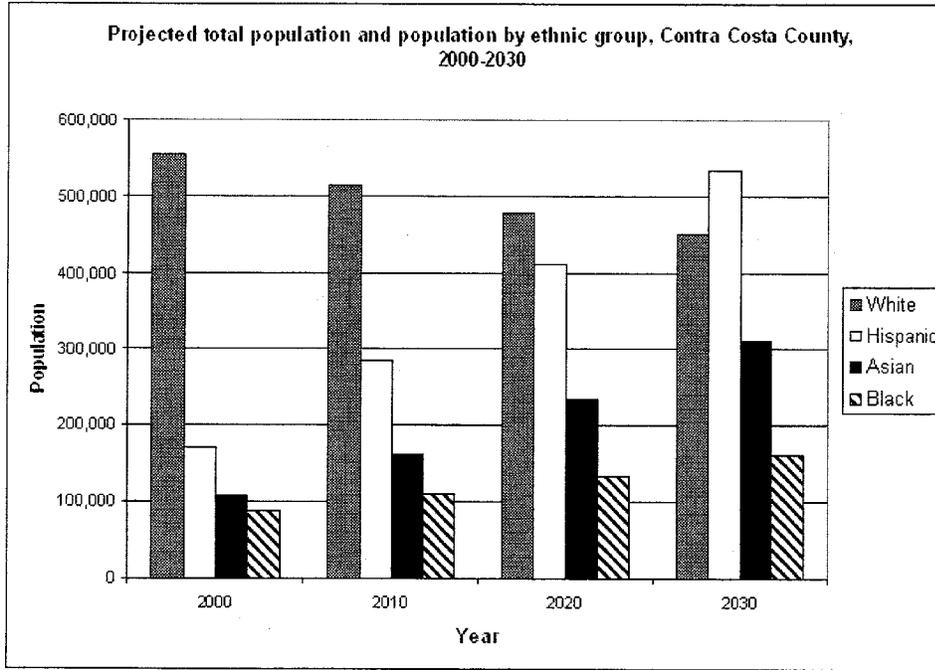


Chart 1. Projected population by ethnic group, four largest ethnic groups, Contra Costa County, 2000-2030

Park staff members describe typical park visitors as a collage of ethnicities, especially during summer weekends. They have observed that the existing limited space for group camping has caused conflict.

Research by National Park Service and California State Parks shows that Hispanic and Asian ethnic groups require recreation areas that accommodate large groups as well as water features and amenities sufficient to support day-long family social outings. Additionally, these ethnic groups typically prepare meals at the park.

Attendance trends

Between 1996 and 2007, over 1,500,000 people visited Brannan Island SRA, for an average of about 130,400 visitors per year. Chart 2 on page 9 shows total attendance and attendance by type (paid day use, overnight camping and free day use) for the 12-year period. Despite a growing regional population, the overall attendance trend was downward, with the exception of overnight camping, which remained fairly constant.

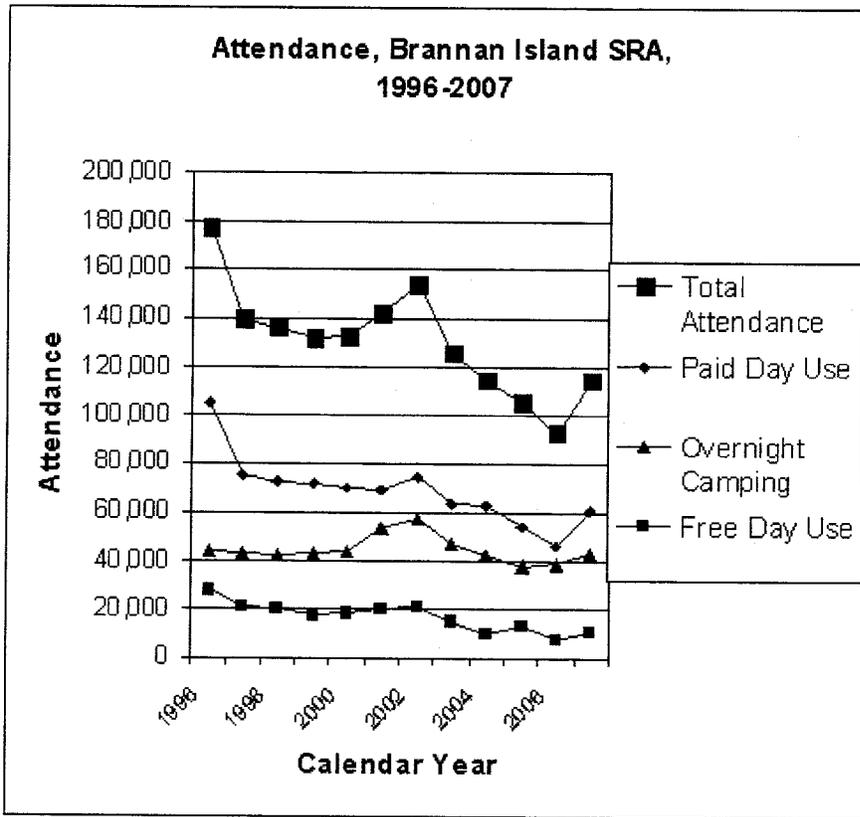


Chart 2. Attendance, Brannan Island SRA, 1996-2007

Note: Park staff members report that staffing levels have been inadequate to ensure collection of accurate attendance data.

For background information, see Attendance data and trends, page 37.

Funding opportunities

Due to limited State Park funding, funding opportunities from other sources need to be identified. Table 1 on pages 10-13 outlines potential sources of funding and partnerships for Brannan Island SRA.

Table 1. Potential funding sources and partnerships, Brannan Island SRA

Organization	Website	Relevant involvement	Relevant park feature	Contacts/Notes	Amount of funding available and key deadlines
California Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW and CAL Boating) 	http://www.dbw.ca.gov	Develop public access to waterways and promote on-the-water safety	-Non-motorized launch -Boat-in camping slips -Partner for Visitor Center -Support rehabilitation of river access at Windy Cove	Steve Watanabe (916) 263-8147 Mike Ammon (916) 263-8163	Grant
California Department of Fish & Game (DFG) 	http://www.dfg.ca.gov	Manage California's fish, wildlife and plant species	-Fishing pier -Windsurfing launch	Bay Delta Region Javier Gloria (707) 944-5500	Grant
California Department of Water Resources (DWR) 	http://www.water.ca.gov	Promote recreational opportunities and plan for future statewide water needs	Partner for Visitor Center	(916) 653-5791	Grant
California State Parks Foundation 	http://www.calparks.org	Act as non-profit advocate for California State Parks	-Promote special events -Grant towards engineering study at Windy Cove	Alisha Keller (916) 442-2119 Alisha@calparks.org	Grant \$6,000 cap
Club Rio Sailing 	http://www.clubriosailing.com	Provide day-use of sailboats for members and sailing classes for public	Possible event partner	(916) 966-1855 info@clubriosailing.com	Potential partner
Delta Bayliner Club 	http://www.deltabaylinerclub.org	Bayliner owners social club – most boating takes place in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta area	Possible event partner	Dianne Lynch Dianne_Lynch@lrco.com	Potential partner

Organization	Website	Relevant involvement	Relevant park feature	Contacts/Notes	Amount of funding available and key deadlines
First 5 Sacramento Commission 	http://www.sackids-saccounty.net/Funding/index.htm	Invest in community efforts that promote early childhood development for children (from prenatal stage to age five) and their families	Play areas focused on tots (age 0-5) would be eligible.	Debra Payne, Program Planner (916) 876-5870 paynede@saccounty.net	Grant \$50,000 maximum Applications due annually in early February Hearing held in March Contracts secured by June
National Park Service/Land and Water Conservation Fund 	http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1008	Provide matching grant money to support public outdoor recreation	Alternative camping	Richard Rendon, LWCF administrator (916) 651-7600 rrendon@parks.ca.gov	Matching grant Annual deadline is first work day in March.
Northern California Starcraft Camper Club 	http://www.california-starcraft.org	Organize monthly camping outings on Starcraft campers	Possible event partner	Ray's RV, Sponsor (800) 499-4787 webmaster@CaliforniaStarcraft.org	Potential partner
Proposition 84 CA River Parkways Grant Program 	http://www.resources.ca.gov/bonds_riverparkways.html	Support of: -Projects that provide non-motorized public access to river parkways -Construction of overlook areas or boardwalks adjacent to sensitive habitats -Informational displays, interpretive kiosks, etc.	-Windy Cove launch site rehabilitation for windsurfing -Fishing pier -Interpretive displays -Engineering study at Windy Cove (partial support)	Resource Agency Grant Administrators (916) 653-2812 or e-mail: riverparkways@resources.ca.gov Projects must meet two of the conditions listed on the website Project must be in response to an Act of God and <i>not</i> a need for maintenance Emphasize passive or non-motorized recreation Submit initial CEQA with application	Grant No minimum or maximum award amounts Up to five points earned by securing other sources of funds Tentative Deadlines: Filing date: October 18, 2008 Award announcements: June 2009

Organization	Website	Relevant involvement	Relevant park feature	Contacts/Notes	Amount of funding available and key deadlines
Recreational Trails Program	http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24324	Provide funds annually for recreational trails and other trails-related projects	-Extension of Windy Cove interpretive trail -Beach access at the end of the Windy Cove interpretive trail	Mary Baum (916) 651-8581 Matching funds of 12% of total cost required.	Grant No maximum or minimum amounts Deadline: October 1, 2008
Resources Agency	http://resources.ca.gov/een	Support development of trails	-Extension of Windy Cove interpretive trail -Beach access at the end of the Windy Cove interpretive trail	Charles Chung (916) 654-9923 Matching funds are not required but do provide for higher scoring.	Grant Limited to \$350,000 Tentative Deadline: November 2008
Rio Vista Chamber of Commerce	www.riovista.org	Promote member businesses in Rio Vista	Promotion of programs	Linda Lannon (707) 374-2700 Linda.lannon@riovista.org	Potential partner
Rio Vista Windsurfing Association	http://rvwa.com	Promote windsurfing and kiteboarding in the Delta	Windy Cove launch site rehabilitation for windsurfing	Cookie McClard (530) 249-2412	Potential partner
Romara Energy, Inc.	http://www.manta.com/coms2/dnbco_mpany_8yfvzy	Operate oil and gas operations at Brannan Island SRA	Financial support towards capital improvements and equipment	Bob Perkins (831) 659-3077	Grant
Rosetta Resources	 http://www.rosettaresources.com	Operate oil and gas operations at Brannan Island SRA	Financial support towards capital improvements and equipment	Teri Greer (713) 335-4000	Grant
San Jose Run-A-Bouts	http://www.sanjoserunabouts.org/index.html	Promote and use recreational vehicles	Possible event partner	info@sanjoserunabouts.org	Potential partner
Sea Ray Boat Club of Northern California	http://www.srbcn.org	Social club for owners of Sea Ray boats	Possible event partner	membership@srbcn.org	Potential partner

Organization	Website	Relevant involvement	Relevant park feature	Contacts/Notes	Amount of funding available and key deadlines
Stewardship Council	http://www.stewardshipcouncil.org/youth_investment/grantmaking_overview.htm	Increase the participation of underserved youth in successful outdoor urban and wilderness programs Improve the infrastructure of community parks and urban open spaces to make them more accessible and welcoming	-Fishing pier -Interpretive programs	Steve Hagler or Latoya Graham (866) 791-5150 youthgrants@stewardshipcouncil.org	Grant Refer to the Timeline Table on website for deadlines on submitting Letters of Intent and Grant Proposals. Focus on efforts in the major urban areas of the Bay Area and urban communities of the Central Valley
Teichert Foundation	http://www.teichert.com/index.cfm?pa geid=486	Youth development	-Interpretive programs -Visitor Center	Emily Begay (916) 484-3255	Grant Grant application period opens: July 1, 2008 Application period closes: August 29, 2008 Decisions announced: December 1, 2008
Wildlife Conservation Board 	http://www.wcb.ca.gov	Development of public access facilities for wildlife-oriented uses	Fishing pier	Dave Means (916) 445-1095 dmeans@dfg.ca.gov	Grant Deadline: April 1 of every year.

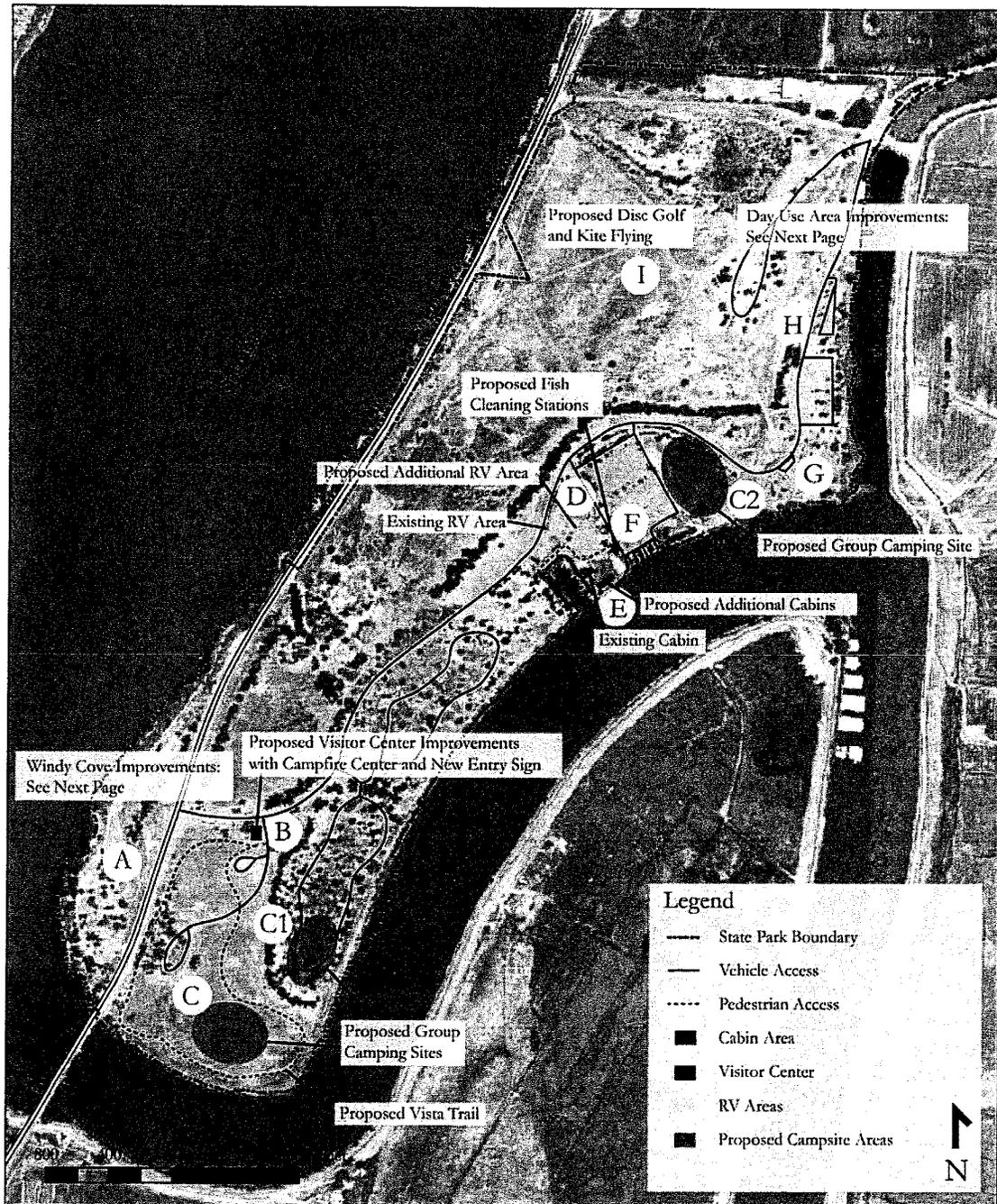
Recommendations

This section outlines the recommended improvements to recreation opportunities at Brannan Island. It includes:

- maps showing locations of improvements (Maps 4 and 5, pages 15 and 16),
- a table summarizing recommended improvements (Table 2, pages 17-19),
- cost estimates (Table 3, pages 20-21),
- conceptual designs (Illustrations 1, 2 and 3, pages 22-24) and
- more details on the high-priority recommendations (pages 25-34).

Locations of recommended improvements

Map 4. Locations of recommended improvements, Brannan Island SRA.



Date: 05/08
 Source:
 California State Parks

Brannan Island SRA
 Recreation Assessment:
 Locations of recommended
 improvements

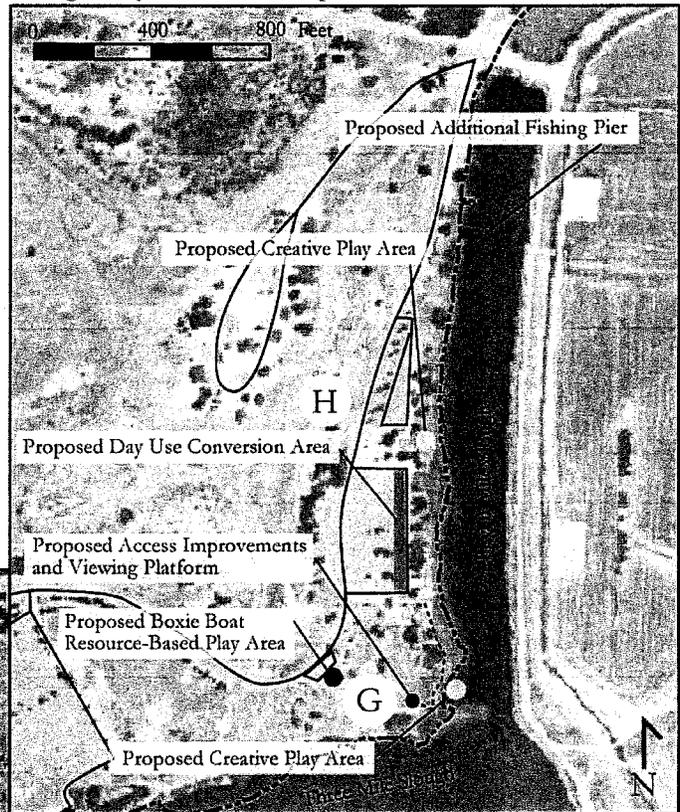
NOTES:
 Parcel boundaries are approximate
 and should not be considered
 legal descriptions. Maps are
 intended for study purposes only.

LONG
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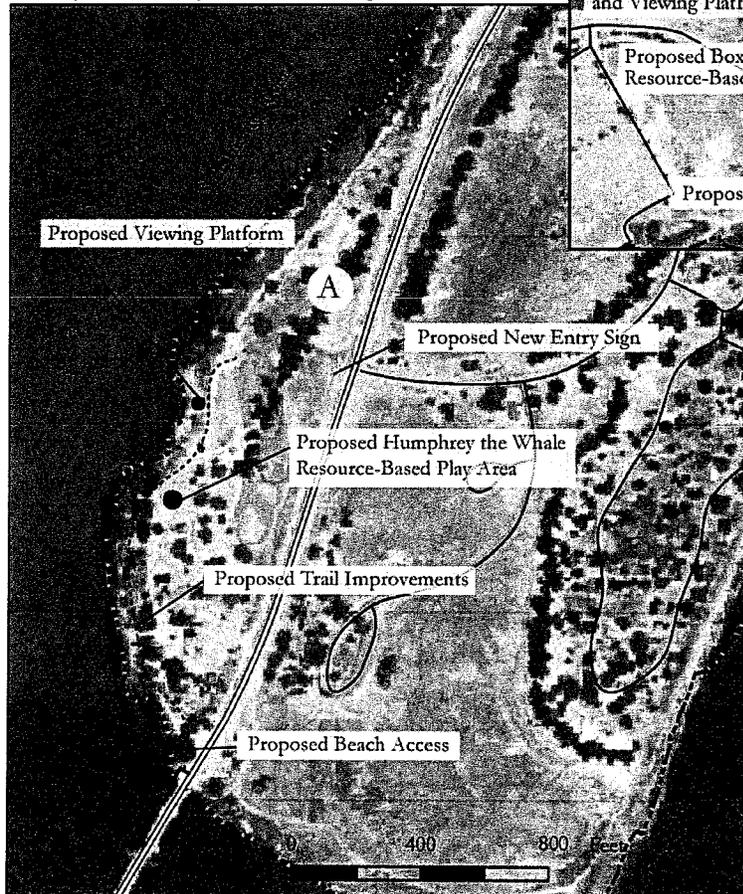


Map 5. Locations of recommended improvements at day use areas.

Slough Day Use Areas Improvements



Windy Cove Day Use Area Improvements



Legend

- State Park Boundary
- Vehicle Access
- Pedestrian Access
- Proposed Viewing Platform
- Proposed Resource-Based Play Area
- Proposed Creative Play Areas
- ▨ Proposed Area to Convert to Day Use

Date: 03/08
 Source:
 California State Parks

Brannan Island SRA
 Recreation Assessment:
 Locations of recommended
 improvements at Day Use Areas

NOTES:
 Parcel boundaries are approximate
 and should not be considered
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 intended for study purposes only.

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 RANGE
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Summary of recommended improvements Table 2. Recommendations summary, Brannan Island SRA.

Recreation Feature	Status	Data Source	Issue	Recommendation	Justifications	Considerations
A. Windy Cove Day Use Area Shoreline windsurfing access	Unusable	Field staff observation	Since 2005 storm, windsurfers have not been able to use because cement steps were washed away.	Research feasibility and cost of regrading shoreline and restoring access at Windy Cove. Conduct study and consider results prior to beginning improvements. Consider lifespan and cost of proposed improvements.	Windy Cove was popular with windsurfers; loss of Windy Cove may be contributing to decline in overall attendance. Windsurfers prefer Windy Cove over Sherman Island. Sherman Island dropoff not in good condition; parking and restrooms at Sherman Island not adequate for peak-use periods.	Expensive to repair. Sherman Island may provide a viable alternative for local windsurfing access. Action is consistent with General Plan.
Extension of Windy Cove Interpretive Trail	Undeveloped	Field staff observation	Asphalt trail dead ends near bridge. No trail for access to beach area near bridge.	Continue existing asphalt trail to overlook area at base of bridge. Upgrade/add interpretive panels (signs) on Delta history and resources. NOTE: Scott Nakaji urges a comprehensive trail plan/study to integrate existing trail with any proposed improvements.	No other beach access exists at Windy Cove. Interpretive signs would give visitors using Windy Cove primarily as rest stop something interesting and educational to do while stretching their legs and using facilities.	Cost is relatively low. Action is consistent with General Plan.
Beach access at end of Windy Cove Interpretive Trail	Undeveloped	Field staff observation	No stairs exist to allow beach access at Windy Cove.	Develop staircase from new asphalt trail near bridge down to beach.	No other beach access exists at Windy Cove.	Cost is relatively low. Action is consistent with General Plan.
Parking at Three Mile Bridge	Undeveloped	Field staff observation	Parking in dirt area near bridge is a safety hazard.	Continue existing traffic fencing to block vehicle access to "parking" area.	Preventing people from pulling in and out of high speed traffic will improve public safety.	Cost. Action does not conflict with General Plan.
Viewing platform at Day Use Area	Undeveloped	Field staff observation	No viewing areas exist at Windy Cove.	Install viewing platform. Remove vegetation as necessary to provide view.	Offers visitors opportunity to easily view Windy Cove.	Cost. Action is consistent with General Plan.
Resource-based play area at Day Use Area	Undeveloped	Field staff observation	Limited play facilities at Brannan, no play opportunities exist at Windy Cove.	Add resource-based play area with play sculpture.	Play structures offer opportunity for children to play and learn.	Cost. Use is not included in General Plan.
Entry and park hours signs	In disrepair	Field staff observation	Entry sign is in poor condition.	Amend Windy Cove sign so that windsurfing is not implied. Use precast concrete for increased durability.	New entry signs would have better ADA compliance (contrast and color).	Cost of new signs. Action is consistent with General Plan.
Interpretive signs	In disrepair	Field staff observation	Some interpretive signs are in poor condition.	Remove illegible interpretive signs and replace if possible.	Legible signs improve visitor experience.	Cost of new signs. Action is consistent with General Plan.

Recreation Feature	Status	Data Source	Issue	Recommendation	Justifications	Considerations
B. Visitor Center Visitor Center building	Inadequate	Field staff observation, demographic data	Building size, condition, and days and hours of operation insufficient for current and projected use. Inadequate interpretive staffing, displays and programs.	Research partnership and funding opportunities for facility and staffing. Upgrade and enlarge visitor center to include meeting rooms for partners and associations, space for school groups and more interpretive information. Add staff/volunteers to educate and inform on cultural and natural resources. Keep visitor center open longer and add more interpretive information.	Would be more comfortable, provide meeting space for cooperating associations and school groups, and provide for improved interpretation. Revenue would be generated by income from renting meeting space to partners. This could attract partners to donate. Improved facilities might attract school groups. Center would better meet needs of park staff and visitors.	Cost. Action is consistent with General Plan. Further study regarding best location for new Visitor Center is needed. Selected location may be inconsistent with General Plan.
Campfire center	Undeveloped		Existing campfire center is isolated and not regularly used	Locate near visitor center to provide better access for campers and offer options for school groups. Include not only seating but flexibility for creative play area for school children.	Improved use and flexibility.	Cost. Location is inconsistent with General Plan.
Vista trail	Undeveloped		Trails and views of Three Mile Slough are lacking at south end of park. Interpretive information for schoolchildren lacking near visitor center.	Start interpretive trail at visitor center and loop back at Three Mile Slough. Add interpretive panels with theme(s) related to displays in Visitor Center. This will allow school children to take short nature walk from Visitor Center and learn about natural and cultural history of Delta while remaining on east side of Hwy 160 (vs. having to walk across 160 to Windy Cove).	No organized trail in this part of park.	Cost. Action does not conflict with General Plan.
Entry sign	In disrepair		Entry sign is in poor condition. Highway signage inadequate for Visitor Center and SRA.	Replace. Use precast concrete for increased durability. Make ADA compliant.	New entry sign would have better ADA compliance (contrast and color).	Cost. Action is consistent with General Plan.
C. Group Campgrounds Group campground at south end of park	Nonexistent	Demographic data, field staff observation	Inadequate number of group campgrounds; no group campgrounds near water.	Install new group campground at south end of park.	Land is available, and campers clearly want to be by water. Demographics and reservation data suggest need for more group camp facilities. Possible increased revenue from group camp reservations.	Cost (construction, combination building and maintenance) and staff time. Location is inconsistent with General Plan. Consider gas wells in design, they can be loud. Consider introducing wind break to reduce impact of prevailing wind.
Group campground north of group picnic area	Nonexistent	Demographic data, field staff observation	Inadequate number of group campgrounds; no group campgrounds near water.	Install new group campground at open space between boat launch parking lot and group picnic area.	Land is available, and campers clearly want to be by water. Demographics and reservation data suggest need for more group camp facilities. Possible increased revenue from group camp reservations.	Cost (construction, combination building and maintenance) and staff time. Location is inconsistent with General Plan.
Cottonwood Campground	Adequate	Demographic data, field staff observation	Some campers converting individual sites to group sites.	Conduct pilot of converting some individual sites to group sites or more flexible option.	Campers want group sites near water.	Action is inconsistent with General Plan.
D. RV Campground RV campground	Inadequate	Field staff observation, user comments	Campsites close together, confusion over which fire pit belongs to which space. RV lights can bother neighbor.	Convert unused area near walk-in sites to RV camping (include berm to shield area from cabin area), add more space between existing RV sites.	Land is available to expand RV area. Possible increased revenues from RV site reservations.	Cost. Recommended location for RV camps is inconsistent with General Plan.
E. Cabins Cabins	Existing in good condition; inadequate for needs		Inadequate supply of cabins.	Add 1-4 more cabins at walk-in camping area.	Existing cabin is popular. Extends shoulder season by protecting from Delta winds; potentially increases revenues from cabin reservations.	Cost (construction and maintenance) and staff time. Use is not included in General Plan.

Recreation Feature	Status	Data Source	Issue	Recommendation	Justifications	Considerations
Fish cleaning stations	Nonexistent	Visitors use existing facilities to clean fish	Install fish cleaning station with running water near restrooms. Station could replace existing older shade structures and tables.	Installation would support cleanliness and a healthier environment.	Cost. Action does not conflict with General Plan.	
Excursion boating	Nonexistent	No ability for those who do not have a boat to park to go out on the lake. Boat tours currently available.	Research resources and partnerships necessary to provide motorized boat tours of Delta and nearby communities, using boat slips at Brannan Island as a starting point.	Would provide opportunity for visitors without boats to enjoy boat rides and familiarize visitors with Brannan Island, Delta, and nearby communities from perspective of Delta waterways.	Effort to obtain concessionaire.	
Boat show	Not regular	No regular boat show.	Research resources and partnerships necessary to provide an annual boat show.	Existing boat shows attract visitors.	Effort to obtain concessionaire, possible staging area. Effort to obtain concessionaire.	
Fishing tournament	Not regular	No regular fishing tournament.	Research resources and partnerships necessary to provide an annual fishing tournament.	Existing fishing tournament attracts visitors.	Effort to obtain concessionaire.	
G. Three Mile Slough Day Use Area Resource-based play area at Day Use Area	Nonexistent	Field staff observation	No play area for children at group picnic area.	Add resource-based play sculptures of Boote boat and local fish.	Existing play facilities well received, no resource-based play area.	Cost. Use is not included in General Plan.
Sandspit overlook and access	In disrepair	Field staff observation	No easy access to sandspit area.	Repair access; add overlook.	Swimmers expect access all along 7-mile slough area, existing access could be repaired.	Cost. Action does not conflict with General Plan.
Creative play area at sandspit	Nonexistent	Field staff observation	No creative play.	Add creative play area at sandspit. Provide boulders, driftwood, sand, rocks, and stumps.	Existing play facilities well received, no creative play area exists.	Cost. Use is not included in General Plan.
H. Seven Mile Slough Day Use Area Parking lot	Oversized	Field staff observation	Parking lot too big, convert part to day use area.	Remove asphalt, add tables and grills.	Expand day use area	Cost. Action does not conflict with General Plan.
Creative play area at Day Use Area	Nonexistent	Field staff observation	No creative play.	Convert part of parking lot into creative play area.	Existing play facilities well received, no creative play area exists.	Cost. Use is not included in General Plan.
Fishing pier	Existing is in good repair, but inadequate	Field staff observation	Existing pier is not adequate for current and future needs.	Add second fishing pier.	Pier allows people without boats to fish.	Cost. Action is consistent with General Plan.
J. Open Field Area (in North Area of Park)	Underdeveloped	Field staff observation	Underutilized land.	Install disc golf course and/or kite flying facilities.	Create more attractive uses at a low cost, utilize available land at a low cost.	Cost. Action is consistent with General Plan.
J. Other						
User surveys	Inadequate	Planning Division staff observation	Existing data is not adequate to gauge user needs.	Initiate regular user surveys.	Surveys capture visitor information, allowing for better planning.	Cost
Vehicle counter	Not used	Demographic data, field staff observation	Staff indicates currently available attendance figure are not reliable.	Add vehicle counter.	Better attendance data can help park better gauge needs, possibly assist in obtaining funding.	Staff time

Cost estimates Table 3. Cost estimates, recommended improvements, Brannan Island SRA (April 2008).

Item	Unit	Cost Per Unit			Notes
		Low	Medium	High	
A. Windy Cove Day Use Area Improvements					
Shoreline engineering study for windsurfing access					
Develop trail improvements	Report	\$12,000	\$15,000	\$20,000	Recommend analysis prior to the start of any construction.
Develop beach access	LS	\$22,400	\$28,000	\$35,000	Convert existing asphalt to DG and connect to bridge area.
Close parking at bridge	LS	\$4,000	\$9,000	\$14,000	Staircase below bridge with decorative railing to match existing
Install viewing platform at Day Use Area	LS	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$6,000	Fencing to block access. Match existing bridge traffic fencing (~100 LF per GIS)
Develop resource-based play area at Day Use Area	LS	\$5,000	\$35,000	\$100,000	
Replace entry and park hours signs	LS	\$45,000	\$65,000	\$95,000	"Humphrey" play sculpture and shade sails
Remove/Replace interpretive signs	LS	\$2,500	\$4,500	\$6,500	Precast concrete recommended
	LS	\$500	\$2,000	\$4,000	Windsurfing sign may no longer apply (interpretive signs \$600-\$8,000 each)
Windy Cove Day Use Area Improvements Subtotal		\$95,400	\$163,500	\$280,500	
B. Visitor Center					
Upgrade visitor center	LS	\$900,000	\$1,250,000	\$1,500,000	\$200/square foot
Develop outdoor campfire center		\$2,000	\$10,000	\$25,000	
Replace entry sign	LS	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$4,200	Precast concrete recommended
Develop vista trail	mile	\$100,000	\$300,000	\$400,000	CSP. Loop trail from Visitor Center to southern tip of island. About ~1 mile.
Visitor Center Subtotal		\$1,004,500	\$1,563,000	\$1,929,200	
C. Group Campgrounds					
Install new group campgrounds C and C2					
Grading	LS	\$65,000	\$125,000	\$155,000	
Roadway improvements	LS	\$170,000	\$200,000	\$250,000	\$10/square foot for roadway
Tables	LS	\$13,000	\$24,000	\$32,000	\$650-\$1600 each, assume 20 tables
Grills	LS	\$3,600	\$5,400	\$7,200	\$300-\$600 each, assume 12 grills
Trash receptacles	LS	\$3,750	\$11,250	\$18,000	\$250-\$1200 each, assume 15 receptacles
Restroom with showers (2)	LS	\$550,000	\$650,000	\$800,000	One combo building at each group campground
Utilities and infrastructure	LS	\$150,000	\$230,000	\$300,000	
Convert pilot group campground in Cottonwood Campground (C1)	LS	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$25,000	Rearrange existing sites
Group Campgrounds Subtotal		\$960,350	\$1,255,650	\$1,587,200	
D. RV Campground					
Convert unused area to RV Campground					
Roadway improvements	LS	\$50,000	\$60,000	\$70,000	Some existing RV tables and grills could be used in new area
Utilities (electrical hook-ups)	LS	\$20,000	\$35,000	\$50,000	\$10/square foot for roadway (~450 LF per GIS)
Grills	LS	\$1,800	\$2,700	\$3,600	\$300-\$600 each, assume 6 grills
Tables	LS	\$3,900	\$7,200	\$9,600	\$650-\$1600 each, assume 6 tables
Trash receptacles	LS	\$1,750	\$5,250	\$8,400	\$250-\$1200 each, assume 7 receptacles
RV Campground Subtotal		\$77,450	\$110,150	\$141,600	

Item	Unit	Cost Per Unit			Notes
		Low	Medium	High	
E. Cabins					
Add cabin(s) at Walk-In Area	LS	\$12,000	\$36,000	\$60,000	1-4 cabins, use existing grills and tables
Cabins Subtotal		\$12,000	\$36,000	\$60,000	
F. Boat Launch Area					
Install fish cleaning station	LS	\$72,000	\$120,000	\$135,000	Data from Boating and Waterways.
Boat Launch Area Subtotal		\$72,000	\$120,000	\$135,000	
G. Three Mile Slough Day Use Area					
Develop resource-based play area at Day Use Area	LS	\$40,000	\$60,000	\$90,000	Boat and fish play sculptures with shade sails
Develop sandspit overlook and improve access	LS	\$10,000	\$40,000	\$120,000	New staircase and overlook with new interpretive signs
Develop creative play area at sand spit	LS	\$15,000	\$45,000	\$70,000	Natural play area
Three Mile Slough Day Use Area Subtotal		\$65,000	\$145,000	\$280,000	
H. Seven Mile Slough Day Use Area					
Convert parking lot to Day Use sites	LS	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$115,000	~22,500 SF asphalt area to be converted to turf with tables and grills
Develop additional fishing pier	LS	\$125,000	\$150,000	\$170,000	WCB built 120' pier for \$450K in 2005.
Develop creative play area at Day Use Area	LS	\$30,000	\$45,000	\$70,000	Natural play area with shade
Seven Mile Slough Day Use Area Subtotal		\$205,000	\$270,000	\$355,000	
I. Open Field					
Develop 9-hole disc golf course	LS	\$12,000	\$15,000	\$20,000	City of Sacramento data
Open Field Subtotal		\$12,000	\$15,000	\$20,000	
Grand Total for All Improvements		\$2,503,700	\$3,678,300	\$4,788,500	

Conceptual designs

Illustration 1.

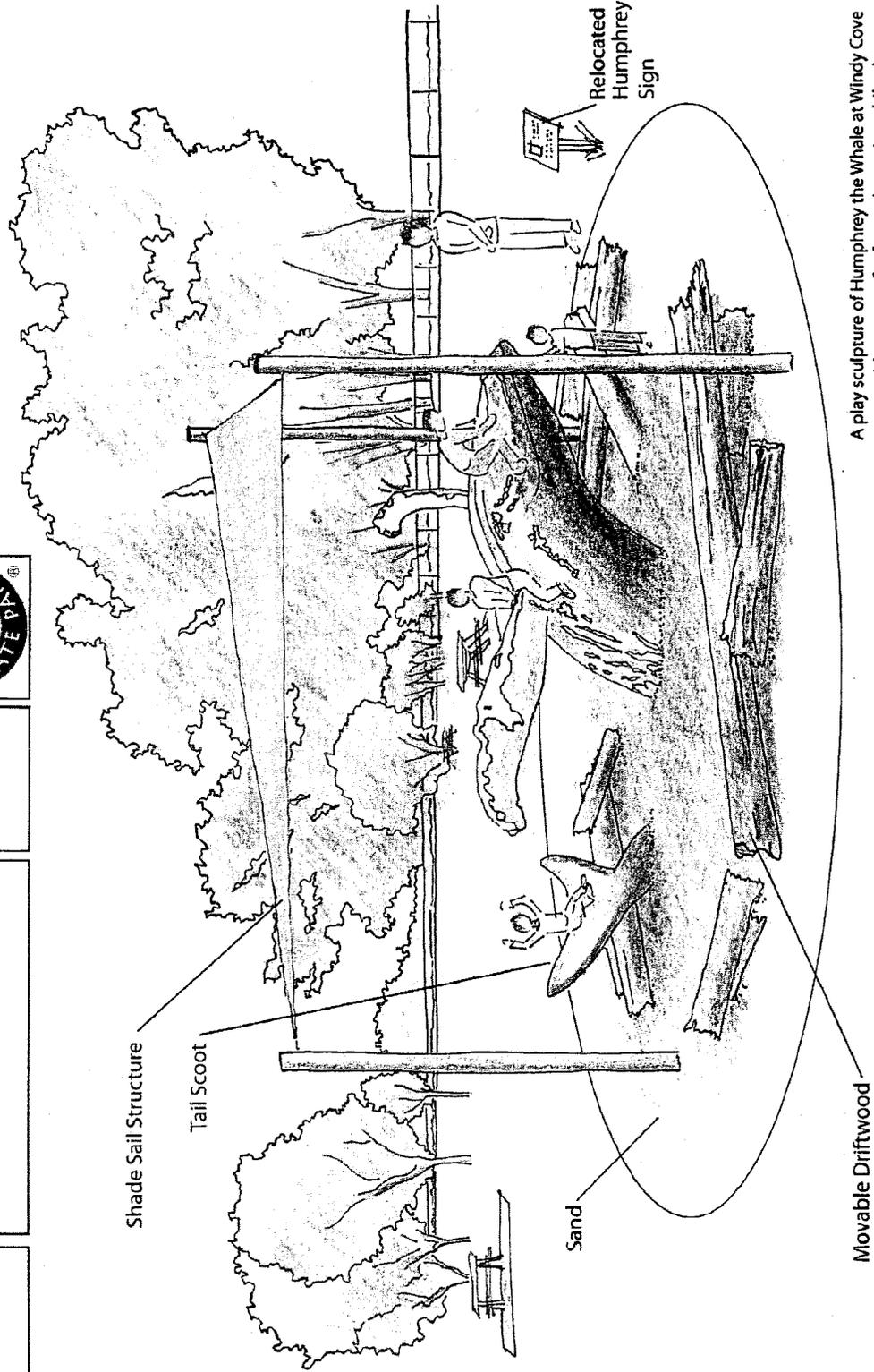


LONG RANGE
PLANNING
SECTION

Brannan Island SRA
Recreation Assessment:
Windy Cove Resource-Based Play

Date: 03/08

Source:
Calif. Dept. of
Parks & Recreation



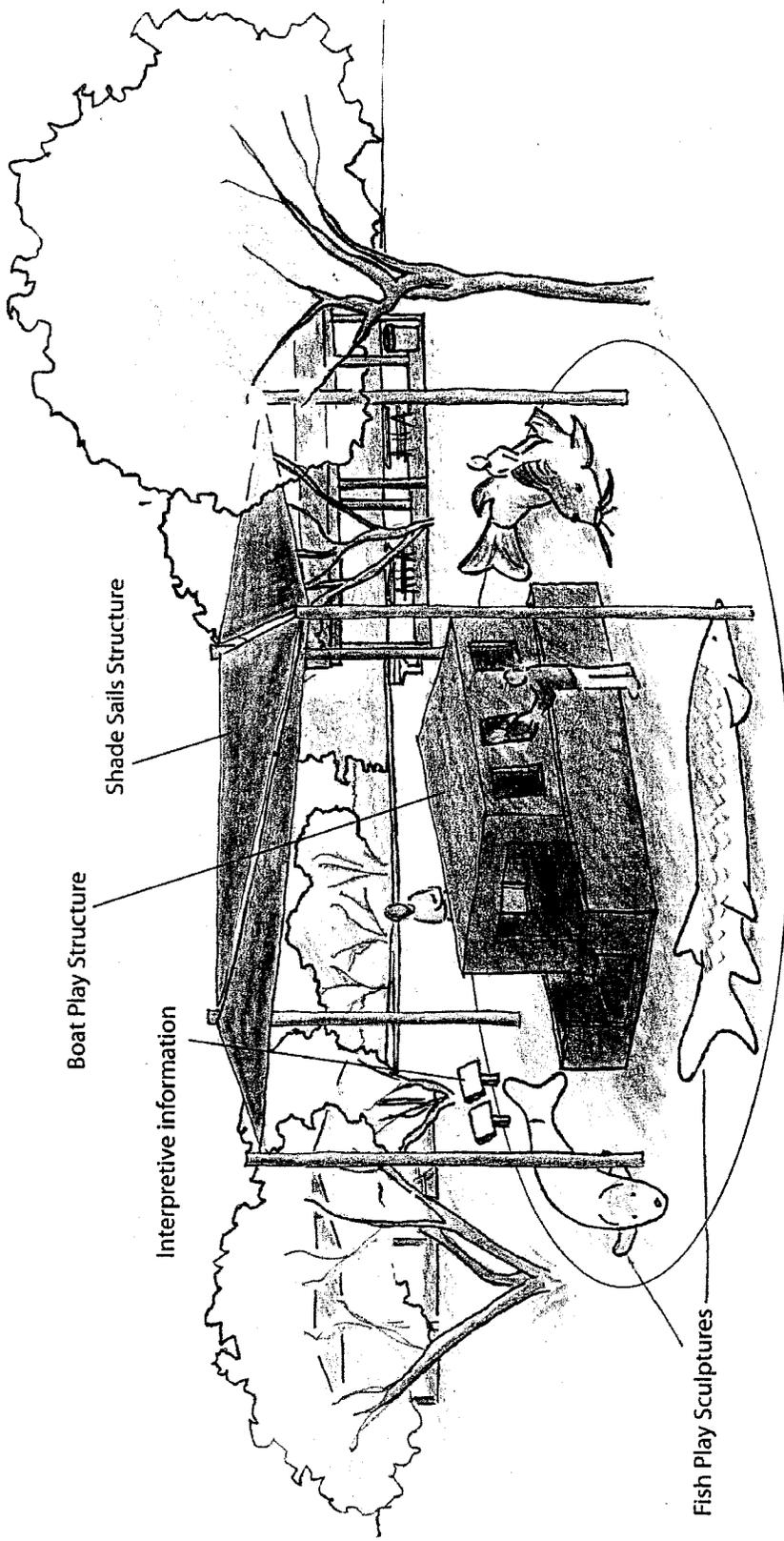
A play sculpture of Humphrey the Whale at Windy Cove can provide a venue for fun and exercise while also teaching about the area's history. The existing interpretive sign could be relocated to the new play area.

Illustration 2.

Date: 03/08
Source:
Calif. Dept. of
Parks & Recreation

Brannan Island SRA
Recreation Assessment:
Three Mile Slough Day Use
Resource-Based Play Area

LONG RANGE
PLANNING
SECTION



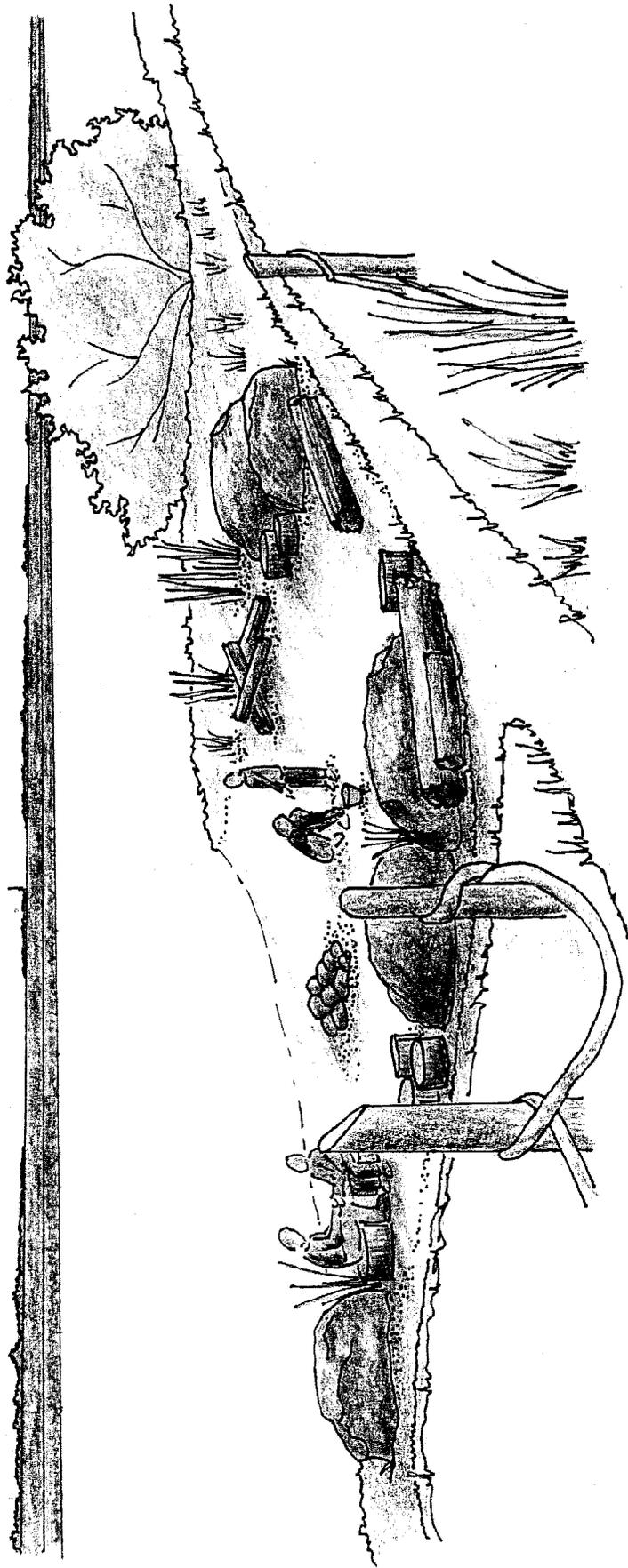
Boating and fishing play elements reflect the uses of the park. Interpretive information about local fish species and historic boating in the Delta could be included in panels outside the play area.

Illustration 3.

Date: 03/08
Source:
Calif. Dept. of
Parks & Recreation

Brannan Island SRA
Recreation Assessment:
Three Mile Slough Day Use Area
Creative Play Area

LONG RANGE
PLANNING
SECTION



Creative play areas that consist of natural and native materials allow children to be imaginative and practice teamwork. The sand spit and Seven Mile Day Use areas are excellent locations for these play areas.

Priority recommendations

Windy Cove Day Use Area

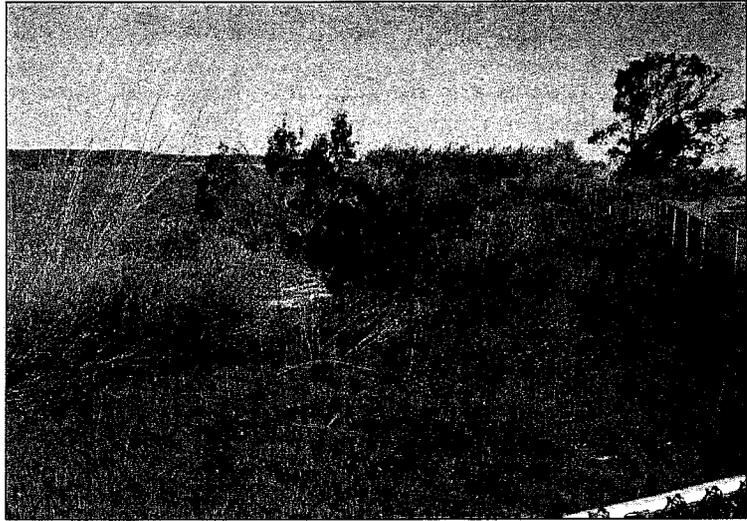
Issue/Analysis

Windy Cove Day Use Area was a preferred location for windsurfers until bluff erosion, due to storm water flows, high tides and winds severely limited shoreline access. A chairperson for Rio Vista Windsurfing Association noted that Sherman Island is overcrowded. The District will need to determine if rehabilitating this location for river access has a reasonable cost benefit. These factors should be considered before pursuing or encumbering funding for engineering and construction:

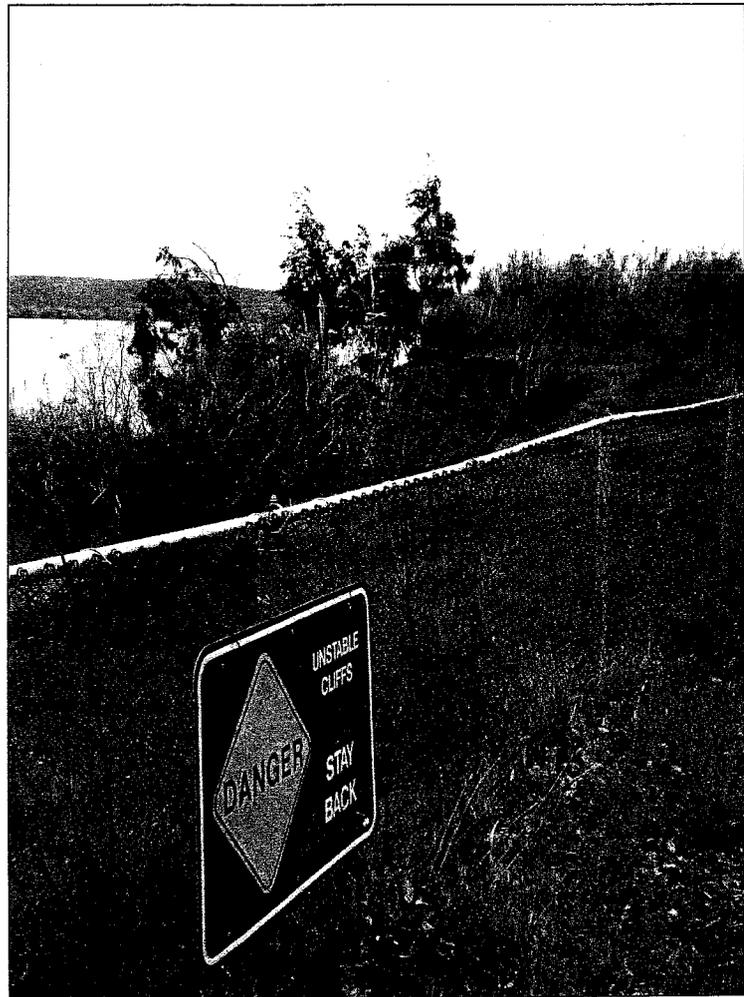
- Long-term solutions to restore access are expensive.
- Existing nearby windsurfing areas, such as Sherman Island, provide windsurfers with river access but few amenities.
- Windsurfing has limited popularity, with about 3% of State Park users participating (*Public Opinions and Attitudes, 2002*).

Recommendation

Conduct a comprehensive feasibility study to determine if improvements to provide access for windsurfers are needed, are cost effective and will generate sufficient revenue.



Bluff at Windy Cove



Bluff at Windy Cove

Three Mile Bridge area

Improve access to the beach

Issue/Analysis

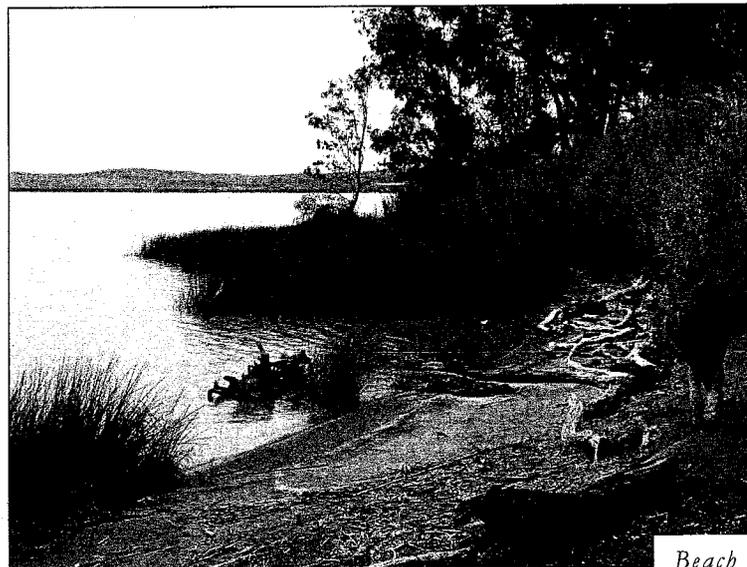
The small beach area below Three Mile Bridge is currently the only beach area on the Sacramento River accessible from Brannan Island SRA. The beach is popular; however, there is no formal access. The interpretive trail that begins at the Windy Cove Day Use Area ends before it reaches the beach. A trail extension and beach access needs to be developed from the existing trail so that visitors may safely access this beach from the Windy Cove parking lot.

Recommendation

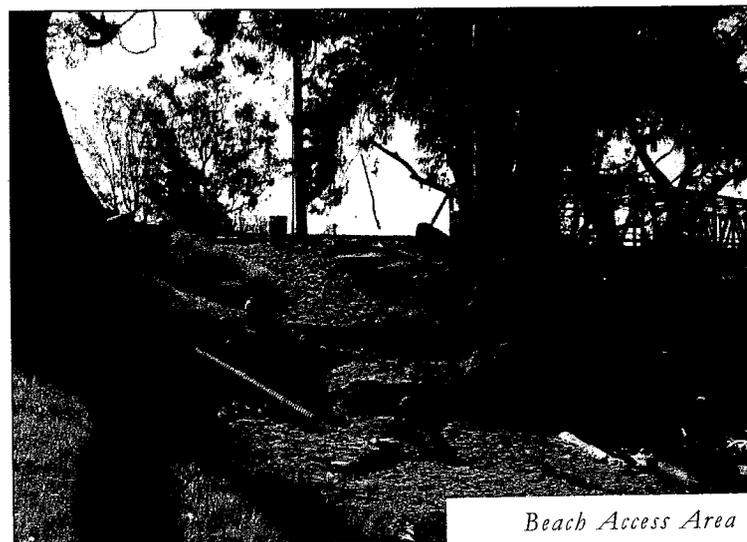
Replace the existing asphalt trail with stabilized decomposed granite and continue the existing trail alignment to the existing concrete overlook area at the base of the bridge. Develop beach access from the new trail segment to the beach. Add interpretive panels with history and resources of the Delta to help link this area to the visitor center.



End of asphalt trail



Beach



Beach Access Area

Eliminate parking areas

Issue/Analysis

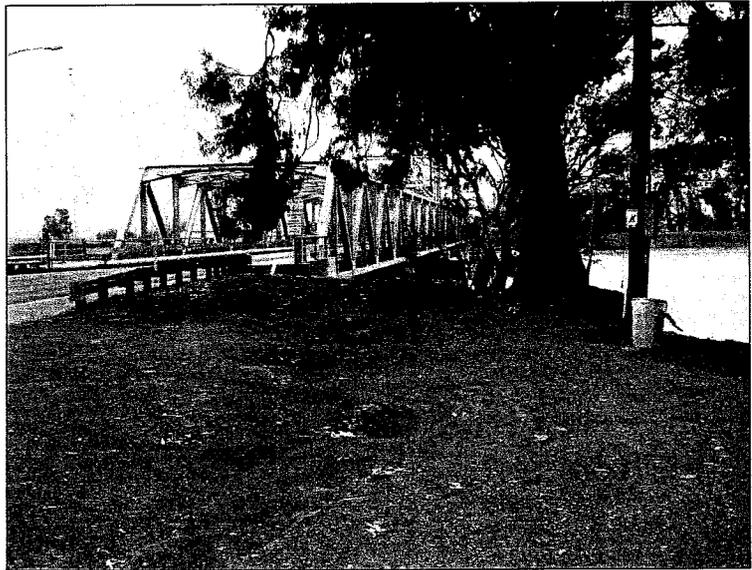
Some visitors who use the small beach area near the base of the bridge park in two informal parking areas:

- on the west side of Highway 160, in the southwest end of the dirt area (see photos) or
- across the street, on the east side of Highway 160, which requires walking across the highway to reach the beach.

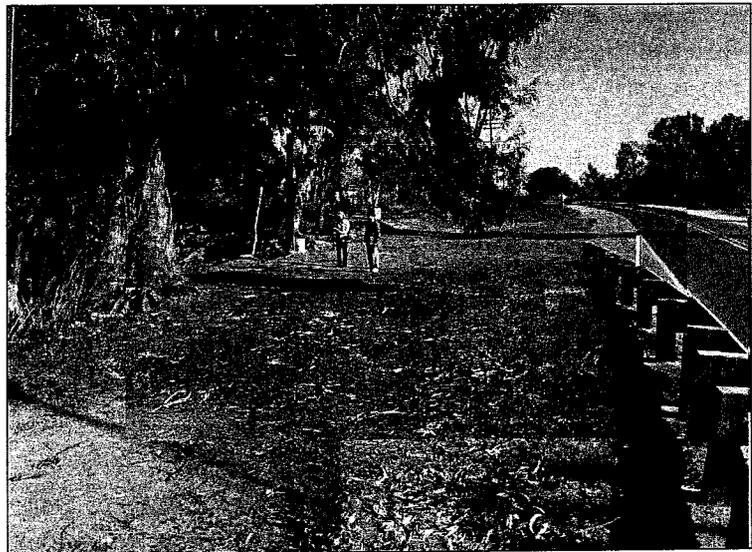
Both parking areas present a safety concern due to high-speed traffic on Highway 160.

Recommendation

Eliminate the two informal parking areas by extending the existing traffic fencing (see photos) in both locations to improve public and vehicular safety on this busy roadway.



Existing informal parking area, west side of bridge, looking north



Existing informal parking area, west side of bridge, looking south

Visitor center

Issue/Analysis

The need for a visitor center was identified in the General Plan (1988). The existing building, built in 1965 as a construction trailer and converted for use as a visitor center in the 1980s, is inadequate to meet current and projected needs. Additionally, the visitor center is open only on weekends. Posted hours are 11 a.m.–3 p.m., but actual hours depend on availability of volunteer staff.

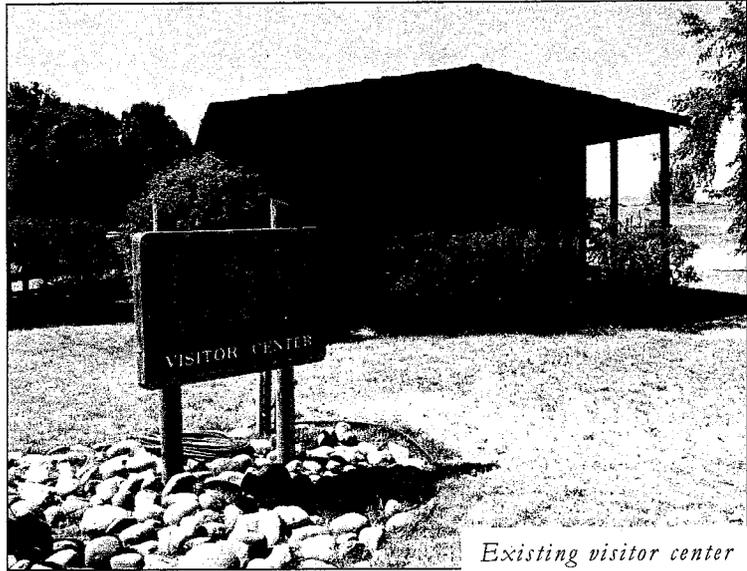
Recommendation

Research funding and partnerships to leverage funding for the design and construction of a new facility. Research methods to provide for more staff.

Develop a new visitor center of between 2,500 and 5,000 square feet in size. The center should include meeting rooms for staff, school groups, volunteers and stakeholders as well as expanded and updated interpretive information.

Next to the visitor center, develop a new campfire center, which would function as a social gathering place and an outdoor classroom. This area would replace the current outdoor interpretive area and include expanded seating and interpretive signs.

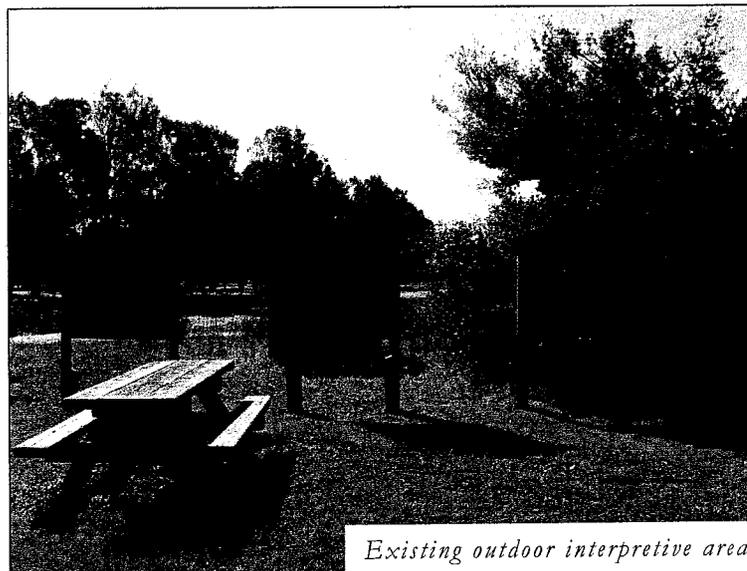
Create a new loop vista trail that begins and ends at the new campfire center. The trail would provide views of the Sacramento River, Three Mile Bridge, and Three Mile Slough.



Existing visitor center



Existing visitor center

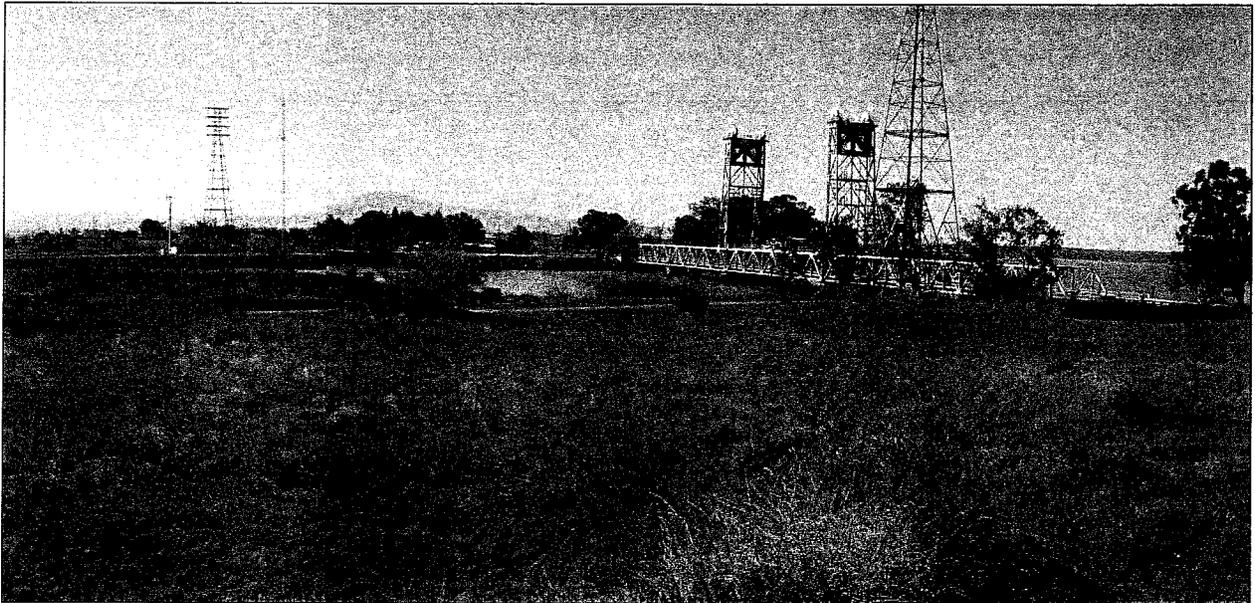


Existing outdoor interpretive area

Group campgrounds

Issue/Analysis

There is no group campground near the water, a preferred camping location. To be near the water, campers create impromptu group camps out of individual campsites at Cottonwood Campground by repositioning tables and trash cans. This can result in conflict with those in individual campsites. After campers leave, field staff must spend time moving tables and trash cans back to their original locations. This is an operational problem.



*Views of Three Mile Slough, Three Mile Bridge, and the Sacramento River from south end of the park
(proposed location for one group campground)*

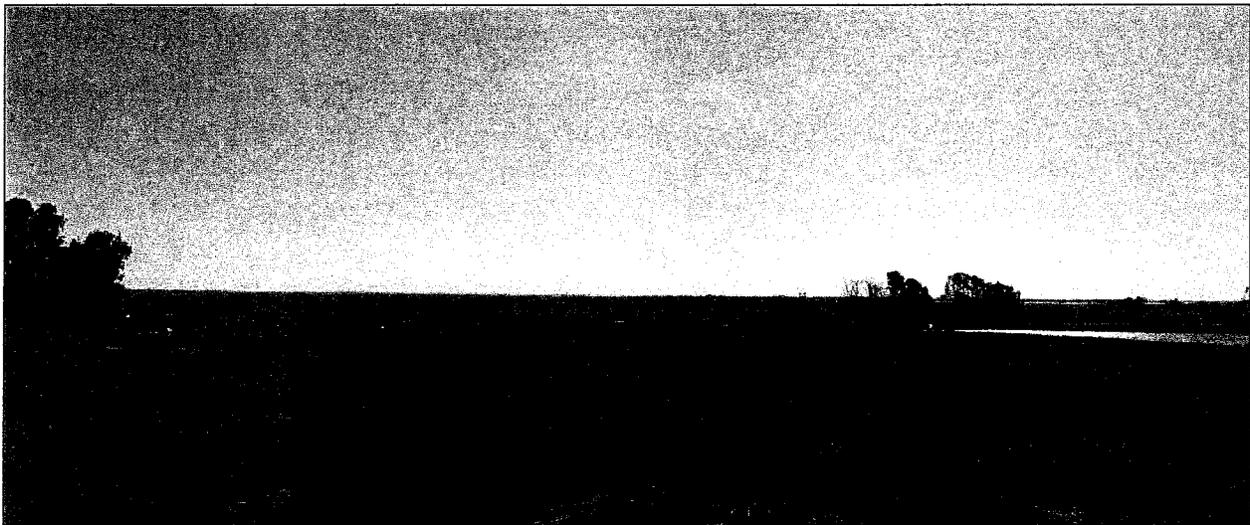
Recommendation

Install a new 30-50 person group campground in the undeveloped south end of the park, which is near the water and has panoramic waterfront views. Prevailing wind could increase fire danger and lessen the visitor experience, so providing a wind break is recommended.

Existing gas wells at this location can be noisy, and should be visually screened from the new campground.

At Cottonwood Campground, implement a pilot project to test the concept of converting selected individual campsites into one or two small group sites (10-12 people).

Install a new 25-30 person group campground in the undeveloped open space between the boat launch parking lot and the group picnic area. The views and proximity to water would make this a popular location.



Gas wells at southern end of park (near site of one proposed group campground area)

Resource-based play areas

Issue/Analysis

Resource-based play areas, which emphasize local resources, are successfully used at parks and related locations, as shown here in photos of the Wave play structure at Koret Playground in San Francisco and the Salmon play structure at the Nimbus Fish Hatchery.

Resource-based play areas encourage active play as well as offer learning opportunities for young children.

There are no resource-based play areas at Brannan Island SRA.

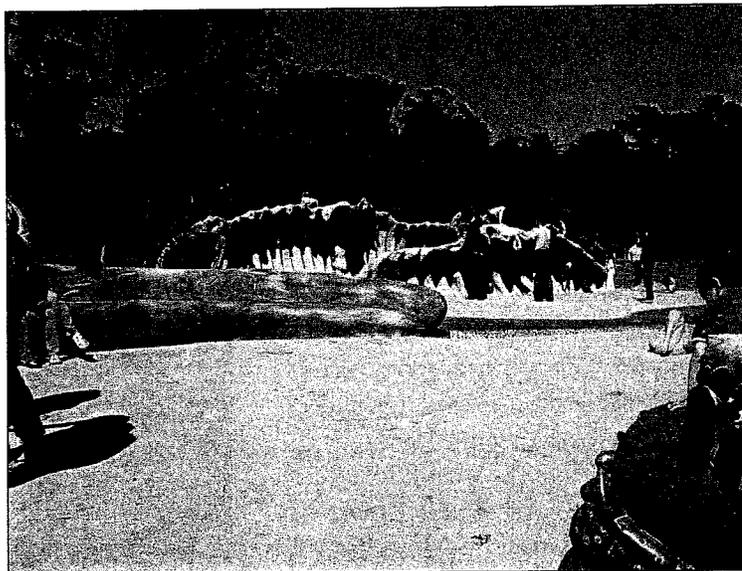
Recommendation

For day-use areas, construct resource-based play areas that emphasize area resources such as fish, boats, water, sand, driftwood, rocks and history. Include shade in areas that are known to be especially sunny and hot, and seating for parents.

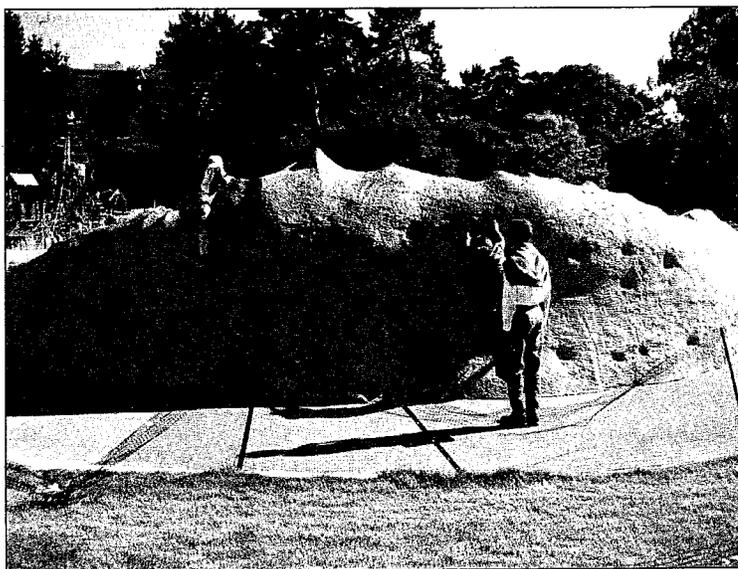
Play areas for ages 0-5 appear to be eligible for funding from the First 5 Sacramento Commission. The First 5 Commission offers competitive grants of up to \$50,000 for tot lots from Proposition 10 funds.

Two play areas are proposed:

1. Humphrey the Whale, for Windy Cove Day Use Area. See Illustration 1, page 22.
2. Boxie Boat and Fish; for Three Mile Slough Day Use Area. See Illustration 2, page 23.



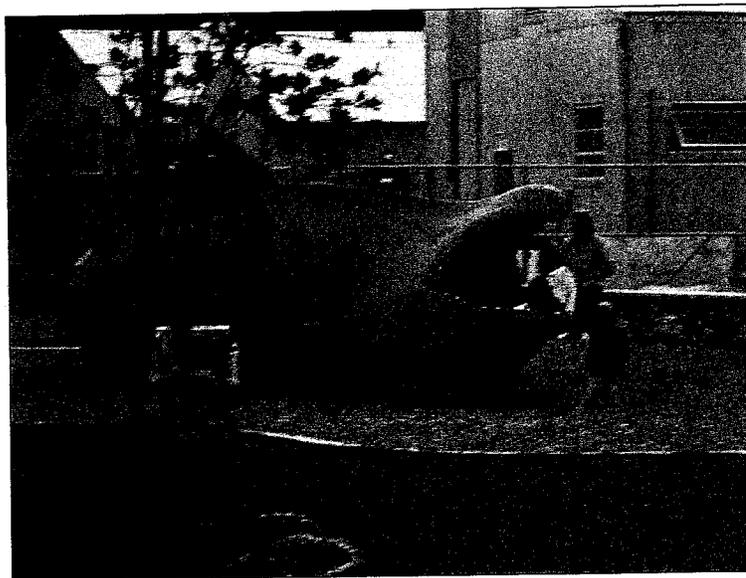
Wave sculpture (front), Koret Playground, San Francisco



Koret Playground, San Francisco, back of wave structure

1. Humphrey the Whale. A humpback whale nicknamed Humphrey gained worldwide fame by wandering off his migratory path in 1985. He swam around in the Delta for more than 3 weeks before being lured back to sea. At this play area, a sculpture of Humphrey would breach out of a sandy sea, providing climbing and interpretive opportunities. His tail would provide a short “scoot” as a low-cost alternative to a large slide. An existing interpretive panel discussing Humphrey could be relocated from the Windy Cove interpretive trail to the Humphrey the Whale play sculpture. Additional interpretive information could be included at the play area. Information could be presented on panels for parents to translate to their young children, or it could be integrated into interactive features in the play elements, such as flip signs. A shade sail structure would provide shade; however, the fabric sail would need to be replaced every 10-20 years.

2. Boxie Boat and Fish. Boxie Boats were used as houseboats on Delta waterways in the early 1900s. At the Three Mile Slough Day Use Area, create a child-scaled Boxie Boat and Fish play area. The boat would provide a playhouse, while sculptures of Delta fish would provide climbing and interpretive opportunities. Include interpretive information on panels. Design the information for parents to translate to their young children. A similar shade sail as at the Humphrey play area is proposed.



Salmon sculpture, Nimbus Fish Hatchery, Rancho Cordova

Creative play areas

Issue/Analysis

Creative play areas provide young people with direct experiences with nature. There, they can create their own entertainment using natural materials. This type of play is recommended by the noted futurist and journalist Richard Louv.

At the popular Three Mile Slough sandspit area and the adjacent swimming area, visitors enjoy the existing traditional recreation activities. An excellent opportunity exists to develop two more formal creative play areas.

Recommendation

Provide two creative play areas – one at the sandspit area and one at the swimming area.

Creating these play areas would be relatively simple. Following a recommendation of Richard Louv, park staff would ensure that materials such as driftwood, rocks, and sand are available for creative play during seasons when beach play is popular. Additional sand and replacement of driftwood might be necessary.

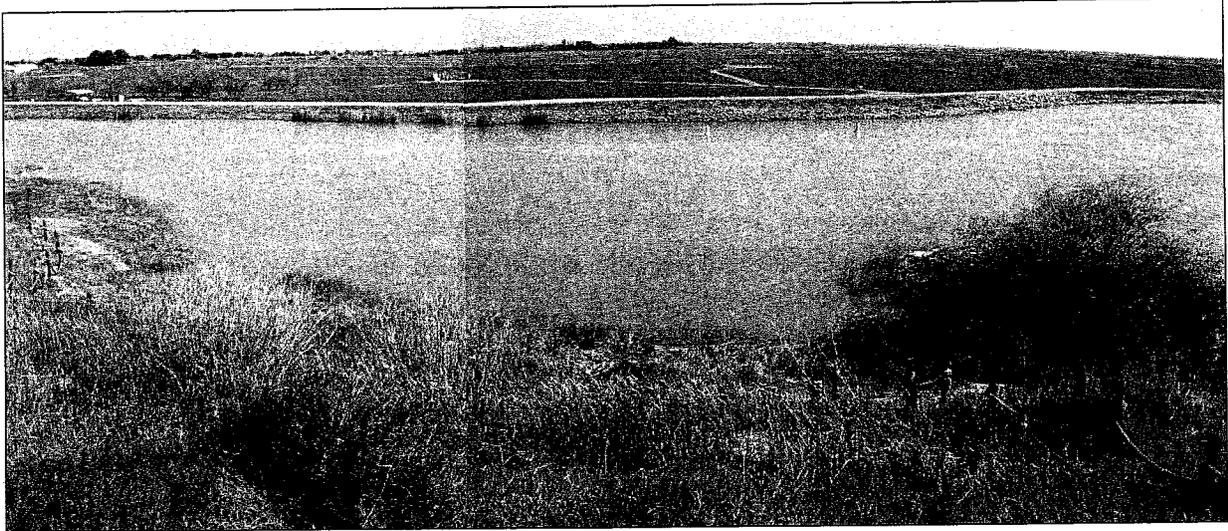
Informal seating areas could be created by providing and arranging driftwood logs, stumps, and imported boulders. See illustration 3, page 24.

“Nature inspires creativity in a child by demanding visualization and full use of the senses...In nature, a child finds freedom, fantasy, and privacy: a place distant from the adult world, a separate place.”

*Richard Louv,
Last Child in the Woods*



Steelhead Park, Los Angeles



Sandspit area, Three Mile Slough

Appendix. Demographic Information

This appendix contains demographic information relevant to Brannan Island SRA.

Current population, surrounding areas

The land adjoining Brannan Island SRA is predominately agricultural, with scattered farms, ranch residences and buildings. The nearest cities, Isleton, Rio Vista, and Oakley, currently have low population densities. Of the three, Rio Vista and Oakley have shown the most growth in recent years. Table 4 shows the percent change in population from 2006 to 2007 for the state and the counties and cities near Brannan Island SRA.

Table 4. Population change, January 2006 to January 2007, for California and counties and cities near Brannan Island SRA

State/County/City Population Estimates with Annual Percentage Change, January 1, 2006 vs. January 1, 2007			
State/County/City	Total Population		Percent Change
	January 1, 2006	January 1, 2007	
State of California	37,195,240	37,662,518	1.3
Contra Costa County	1,030,732	1,042,341	1.1
Sacramento County	1,387,771	1,406,804	1.4
San Joaquin County	668,259	679,687	1.7
Solano County	421,542	424,823	0.2
Antioch	100,163	100,150	0.0
Isleton	814	815	0.1
Oakley	29,485	31,906	8.2
Pittsburg	62,492	63,004	0.8
Rio Vista	7,329	7,823	6.7

Table 5 shows recent population data for cities near Brannan Island SRA.

Table 5. Population, April 1, 2000, to January 1, 2006, for cities near Brannan Island SRA

CITY	4/1/2000	1/1/2001	1/1/2002	1/1/2003	1/1/2004	1/1/2005	1/1/2006
Antioch	90,532	93,341	96,970	99,456	101,060	100,913	100,163
Isleton	828	837	843	843	838	819	814
Oakley	25,619	26,065	26,221	27,046	27,661	28,228	29,485
Pittsburg	56,769	58,088	60,056	61,166	61,768	62,521	62,492
Rio Vista	4,571	4,775	5,372	5,676	6,282	6,809	7,329

The surrounding counties are projected to grow significantly between 2000 and 2030. Table 6 shows this projected growth.

Table 6. Projected population, 2000-2030, for counties surrounding Brannan Island SRA

COUNTY	2000	2010	2020	2030
CONTRA COSTA	954,504	1,116,298	1,327,081	1,543,053
SACRAMENTO	1,230,465	1,555,848	1,946,679	2,293,028
SAN JOAQUIN	567,798	747,149	989,462	1,229,757
SOLANO	396,784	455,647	555,264	677,628

Population trends, surrounding counties

Table 7 shows the expected population and ethnic-group composition for counties surrounding Brannan Island SRA between 2000 and 2030.

Table 7. Projected population and ethnic group composition, 2000-2030, for counties surrounding Brannan Island SRA

County	TOTAL	White	Hispanic	Asian	Pacific Islander	Black	American Indian	Multirace
CONTRA COSTA - 2000	954,504	555,747	171,239	106,705	3,461	88,534	4,059	24,759
CONTRA COSTA - 2010	1,116,298	515,397	283,455	161,518	5,314	108,386	12,199	30,029
CONTRA COSTA - 2020	1,327,081	478,508	411,890	236,060	7,845	135,078	23,753	33,947
CONTRA COSTA - 2030	1,543,053	452,761	536,219	309,892	10,181	160,800	35,279	37,921
SACRAMENTO - 2000	1,230,465	713,744	199,516	139,371	7,637	120,820	9,987	39,390
SACRAMENTO - 2010	1,555,848	680,646	349,014	234,917	12,766	187,057	41,354	50,094
SACRAMENTO - 2020	1,946,679	670,563	512,027	332,637	17,685	271,318	82,825	59,624
SACRAMENTO - 2030	2,293,028	656,975	661,199	419,170	21,684	347,006	117,732	69,262
SAN JOAQUIN - 2000	567,798	270,630	175,488	65,335	1,764	37,380	3,691	13,510
SAN JOAQUIN - 2010	747,149	282,985	283,008	82,916	2,633	63,532	14,348	17,727
SAN JOAQUIN - 2020	989,462	292,440	448,371	116,966	3,673	81,349	25,139	21,524
SAN JOAQUIN - 2030	1,229,757	308,073	616,678	146,312	4,343	98,325	30,727	25,299
SOLANO - 2000	396,784	197,465	69,705	50,353	3,016	58,749	2,452	15,044
SOLANO - 2010	455,647	143,266	121,215	75,791	5,283	81,301	9,582	19,209
SOLANO - 2020	555,264	137,951	184,798	88,863	6,848	96,798	16,760	23,246
SOLANO - 2030	677,628	142,052	257,205	107,754	9,023	107,638	26,725	27,231

Attendance data and trends

Table 8 shows attendance data for Chart 2, on page 9.

Table 8. Attendance data for Brannan Island SRA, 1996-2007

Calendar Year	Paid Day Use	Free Day Use	Overnight Camping	Total Attendance
1996	105,689	28,193	43,539	177,421
1997	75,475	20,822	42,764	139,061
1998	72,862	20,596	42,251	135,709
1999	71,776	17,485	42,673	131,933
2000	70,329	18,307	43,984	132,620
2001	69,318	19,863	52,832	142,013
2002	74,650	21,201	57,607	153,458
2003	63,061	15,347	47,430	125,838
2004	62,429	10,024	42,318	114,771
2005	53,936	13,453	38,374	105,763
2006	46,282	7,279	39,195	92,756
2007	60,385	11,045	42,941	114,371
Total attendance	826,191	203,616	535,907	1,565,714
Average attendance per year	68,849	16,968	44,659	130,476

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